



Member Socials Set

Mark your calendars now for two fun events! The Apex Historical Society board approved details for member gatherings in August and October. The always popular Ice Cream Social will be August 8, at 3:00 at the Maynard-Pearson House. If you'll volunteer to bring a freezer of homemade ice cream, cake, or cookies, please call **Judy Miles** at 363.3268.

Several members expressed regret that we didn't have a fall picnic last year. To make up for this omission, we'll have an even better event! What about an AHS Pig Pickin'! **Diane** and **Allen Long** will host the event at their home on Salem Church Road. The Society will furnish the pig and we'll ask everybody to bring a favorite side dish, dessert, or beverage. Ice, plastic, and paper products will also be furnished. The festivities will be on October 2, at 5:00. A well-known Apex BBQ chef will prepare the pig. To make purchasing more efficient, please call **Molly Weston** at 362-1436 and leave a message or email her at mysteryheel@mac.com with your name and how many people will be in your party.

WW-II Program Well Received

If you missed the members' meeting on May 4, you missed a great evening. Our program, "Apex During World War II," was comprised of panelists **Jacque Burgess**, **Edna Earle Friddle**, and **Jeanne Hack**, all of whom were teenagers during the war. **Molly Weston** moderated the panel, but she expended little effort with the lively members!

Once started, the women remembered troops coming through town, rationing, stars in windows, and blackout curtains. **Jeanne** even sang a commercial popular on the radio! Many in the audience asked questions that prompted even more memories from the group—and from other listeners.

During the refreshment period (many members brought outstanding cookies and brownies to compliment iced lemonade), groups gathered to share other memories of the era.

Apex in Print

Well-known history publisher, Arcadia Press, has contacted AHS board members with a fund-raising offer that's too good to pass! They've suggested a pictorial history of Apex, which we hope will involve not only our society members, but current and past residents of our community.

Announced at the March Members' Meeting, the plan was overwhelmingly accepted by those in attendance. Several indicated an interest in working on a committee to gather photos and write documentation: **Jacque Goodwin Burgess**, **Brian McCullough**, **J. C. Knowles**, **John Messler**, **Margaret Ferry**, **Diane Long**, **Betty Williams**, and **Molly Weston**. If you would like to be part of this committee, call Molly at 362.1436 and leave a message on her machine or email her at mysteryheel@mac.com.

If you have photos you'd be willing to lend—they'll be quite safe, we'll only scan them—we'll be asking for those later. Please be thinking about who you know who might have pictures which would add to our history.

The President's Pen...

Another year has gotten off to a fast start at the Apex Historical Society and we expect it to be a busy and exciting one.

For those who were unable to participate, we had our first formal program of the year at the Jones Center which featured reminiscences of Apex during World War II. It was an excellent program and was enjoyed by all who attended. We had a very successful work day at the Maynard-Pearson House in May. A good number of members turned out and a lot was accomplished both inside and outside the house.

We are looking forward to trying some new fund raisers and events this year. There will be a plant sale in the spring and we are discussing the possibility of a local garden tour. As some of you already know, we are looking at the possibility of working with a publisher to

produce a history book of Apex. We are also hoping to further improve and expand our website this year.

As always, the success of these and our other activities depend in great part on you. We are in need of volunteers to serve on various committees. A group of people will be needed to make the Apex history book project happen. The same is true of the proposed garden tour. The Holiday Home Tour can always use volunteers. We have operated for some time without a membership committee and other necessary committees. These activities will take a small amount of your time but will have a big impact on the Society.

Please consider what you might enjoy doing and talk to one of the board members about getting involved.

Fourth of July

The annual Fourth of July Celebration took place in downtown Apex on July 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm.

The caboose was open to the public. We had our usual booth in the caboose area where we sold water and soft drinks. Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed our booth—and to all you thirsty revelers who chose to spend your money with your Society!

Maynard-Pearson House Used As Classroom

Earlier this year, Cris Armstrong, an instructor in the Historic Preservation Technology Program at Randolph Community College, spent a Saturday at the Maynard-Pearson House with students from her Historic Construction Methods class. The Maynard-Pearson House provides an excellent study area as it was constructed over a period of time and in many ways has remained unchanged since it was built.

—John Messler

The Dispatch...

...is a publication of the Apex Historical Society. Distribution is to all members of the Society.

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Articles may be submitted via email to **mysteryheel@mac.com**.

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Peakfest Draws Crowd Despite Rain

All in all, workers at the AHS booth declared they'd rather have the drizzle than the heat at Peakfest! The bright canopy covered members (thank you all!) who turned out to sell final tickets on the glider donated by Allen Lee Lawrence.

Ticket sales were brisk, and many were delighted to see renewed interest in train whistles as children entreated their parents to buy one of the wooden toys. Perhaps it was the cheerful arrangement of spring flowers from Shirley Beasley or the fact that our booth was the first many festival goers passed, but sales were much better than expected when the clouds first appeared.

Unlike many raffles in which prizes are taken out of town or out of state, AHS member Colleen Newman won the glider. She's delighted to have a new addition to her lawn and looks forward to enjoying it on many peaceful evenings.

AHS Calendar of Events

- July 15 Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH 7:00
- August 8 Ice Cream Social, MPH, 3:00–5:00
- August 19 Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH, 7:00
- September 16 Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH 7:00
- September 25 Today & Yesteryear Fall Festival*
- October 2 Pig Pickin', Long Home, 5:00
- October 21 Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH 7:00
- November 18 Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH 7:00
- December 3 Christmas on Salem Street
- December 4 18th Annual Holiday Home Tour

Yes, I want to be part of Apex's History!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Class of Membership

Senior \$10 _____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____

Contributing \$35 _____ Sustaining \$50 and up _____

Apex Historical Society • PO Box 506 • Apex NC 27502

Garden Tour — 2005

Calling all gardeners! Sharpen your tools and fill up your sprayers. Move mulch in earnest! The Apex Historical Society will sponsor a garden tour and plant sale on April 9, 2005. **Diane Long** is chairing the committee; **Judy Miles** and **Shirley Beasley** have already signed on to manage the plant sale at the Maynard Pearson House. Diane reports there are plenty of spots on the committee—they'll need help with everything from hosting gardens to pricing plants and staffing the sale to making refreshments.

You can start helping now by transferring extra plants from your garden to containers. Save any garden pots that you don't need. Look over your neighborhood to identify potential gardens. Pass the word about the event along to garden clubs and neighbors.

If there is a particular job you'd like to handle or if you'd like to offer your garden as a potential site on the tour, call Diane Long at 362-8095. This is a great opportunity to see beautiful gardens in Apex and to share plants. It's also a chance for some friendly competition in sprucing up our neighborhoods!

Web Site Moves Forward

The Apex Historical Society has had a small web presence for about two years—and we've gotten a lot of traffic as a result. Folks have asked questions, offered ideas, and indicated an interest in Apex that forced us to look for further information to share. Fortunately, new member and Apex native **John Pearson**, a talented web designer, offered to update and expand our site.

A web site is a dynamic entity, and John has incorporated many changes that have freshened the site and will encourage repeated visits. Take a look at the new site at www.apexhs.freesevers.com. You'll be glad you did.

Education Committee

In May 2004, the Apex Historical Society Educational Committee had the pleasure of bringing five third grade classes from A. V. Baucom Elementary School on walking tours of Downtown Apex. As Apex Historical Society member **Debbie Douglass** walked the students through town, the students learned what it was like to live in Apex 100 years ago. They stopped along the way to discuss the various downtown buildings and other places of interest such as previous locations of the Carolina Hotel, the Apex Mule and Supply Company, the Printing Company, and the Post Office. The tour continued down Moore Street to Hughes Street where the children learned where many of the town's merchants lived, including A. V. Baucom. It was a successful day, as the students seemed fascinated by the history of their town, demonstrated by their many questions. The Education Committee looks forward to repeating this tour with next year's third grade students.

Serendipity Strikes

The address for the AHS on our web site sends email automatically to all board members. I was totally surprised to read a note from Pat Hasbrouck regarding some memorabilia she wanted to donate to our Society. She wrote, "My father, Hugh A. Sloan, Sr. was raised in Apex; he graduated from Apex High in 1927. I have his high school chemistry book printed in 1916, with his class notes, and also a copy of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, printed in 1920. Are these items that could be used by the Historical Society? Daddy worked in the Apex Drug Store and from there went to work for the Post Office in Apex before transferring to the Main Post Office in Downtown Raleigh. I have been told that the wooden coin tray I have is what he used while working at the Apex Post Office. Is this another item the AHS would be interested in?" Upon my delighted acceptance, Pat immediately sent the package. Where's the serendipity? My mother, Izma Riggs Johnson, was in Mr. Sloan's class and she renewed her acquaintance with him at their 50th high school reunion in 1977.

Windfall Covers Roof Repairs

If you have recently driven past the Maynard-Pearson House, you have probably noticed changes in the appearance of both the house and the yard. The roof has been repaired, scraped, and painted. Work on glazing the windows and painting the outside of the house is now in progress. All of the work was made possible due to a \$5,000 gift to the Maynard-Pearson Trust from the Apex Community Auxiliary, Inc. and generous donations from Apex Historical Society members. A heartfelt thank you goes out to these folks for their help.

MPH Work Day

On Saturday, May 8, things were buzzing at the Maynard-Pearson House as a number of society members gathered for a work day. Painting was completed on the front porch trim and, the back door and an inside cabinet. The inside of the house was dusted, vacuumed, and swept; furniture was polished and windows were washed. The lawn was mowed and trimmed, plants were weeded and cultivated, and many daffodil bulbs were planted. Shortly after noon Molly Weston arrived with her red picnic basket overflowing with a variety of sandwiches, cold lemonade, and all the trimmings for a delicious lunch. It's a blessing to see so many people come together and share their time and effort.

A special thank you to **Harry and Shirley Beasley; Bill, Teresa, and Beth Stern; Carolyn Ramsey; Ann Yeaman; Buddy Holland; Diane Long; Jim Shirley; John Messler; Judy Miles; Molly Weston; Betty Williams; Allen and Helen Lawrence; Shirley Fiorentino; and Brian McCullough.**

Phone Committee

Everybody needs them. Nobody wants to be on one. They're the telephone committee for the Apex Historical Society. They're totally faithful in their duties, calling all members to let them know about upcoming events and needs of the Society. **Jim Shirley**, as chair of the committee, sets the events in motion. Callers are **Helen Robertson, Carolyn Ramsey, Laraine Behnke, Margaret Ferry, Edna Earl Friddle, Rachel Lewter** and **Elva Maynard**. **Judy Miles** makes email contacts.

Using the Jones Community Center

Several members have questioned why we schedule meetings at the Jones Community Center when we have a perfectly good house where we can meet. Many of them are concerned about the expense of renting a site.

The answers are several, but simple. First, when the AHS sought the MPH from the builder, it was never the intent to hold regular meetings there, but to save the property and restore it; secondly, there isn't enough space to seat people where they can both see and hear a speaker. The MPH is great for dinners and gatherings, but it doesn't lend itself to programming. Thirdly, there's plenty of well-lighted parking so that the community at large can attend programs and, hopefully, become interested in joining AHS. Lastly, the cost for renting the Jones Community Center during the week is quite negligible.

MPH Updates

As with old houses everywhere, the MPH requires constant upkeep. This spring and summer have seen lots of changes—the new roof is on, the outside painting is obvious, and many small repairs and changes have been made.

One of the less obvious repairs is to an upstairs window. One entire frame had rotted and needed replacing. As luck would have it, member **Jacque Burgess** had an extra window of the same size and she was willing to donate it to us. Thanks, Jacque.

Harry Beasley has used his Salem Street contacts to find outside workmen when volunteers couldn't handle some jobs. In addition to that, he's done almost all the mowing on the property this summer. If you'd be willing to lessen the load for Harry sometime, give him a call (362.6294) and volunteer.

An annual budget report for the M-P Trust is ready. **Allen Lee Lawrence** reports that Debbie Douglass has



done a great job of adding, subtracting, and tallying and combining the totals into a nice report. Allen will bring several copies for your perusal to the Ice Cream Social in August. If you can't make it to the Social and would like to review the report, give Allen a call at 362.7308 and make arrangements to take a look.

Apex Historical Society
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